



Maricopa County Board of Supervisors

News Release

District 2: Don Stapley

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Supervisor Don Stapley elected Second Vice President Of National Association of Counties

Supervisor Don Stapley, District 2, has been elected Second Vice President of the National Association of Counties (NACo). The elections took place Tuesday, July 19, 2005 on the last day of the annual NACo conference. This positions Supervisor Stapley to assume the presidency of the national organization in three years.

(District 2 comprises the East Valley cities of Fountain Hills, Gilbert, Mesa, Paradise Valley, and Scottsdale.)

"Maricopa is the fourth largest county in the nation," says Stapley. "We should be involved in leadership to increase our national visibility."

As chairman of a major NACo committee, Large Urban County Caucus, Stapley was instrumental in convincing Congress to pass the 2004 Medicare reform bill. This bill set aside about \$1 billion over four years for the hospital emergency-care reimbursement program. \$12 million was procured for Maricopa County.

One of the most important issues Mr. Stapley has undertaken is diversion of the seriously mentally ill (SMI) from our jails. He has created an SMI commission in Maricopa County to find solutions for the mentally ill who become caught up in the jail's revolving door. The pilot established in Maricopa will serve as a model for other counties.

Under the SMI commission, Stapley also has taken the lead to address another serious problem affecting counties nationwide -- the methamphetamine epidemic.

Stapley has been involved with NACo for over a decade. He has served on the Board of Directors, the Large Urban County Caucus (Chairman), the Homeland Security Task Force, the Justice and Law Enforcement Committee and the Medicare/Medicaid Reform Task Force.

In 2004, *American City and County Magazine* named Stapley "County Leader of the Year" and featured him on the cover with the phrase, "Stapley practices his talent for bringing people together to accomplish common goals."

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